

CONGRATULATIONS DR. GARY E. JONES

HON. PETER J. VISCLOSKY

OF INDIANA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, June 5, 2003

Mr. VISCLOSKY. Mr. Speaker, it is with great pleasure and honor that I congratulate Assistant Superintendent Dr. Gary E. Jones of the School City of Hammond on his retirement. Dr. Jones has made many distinguished contributions to the City of Hammond and all of Northwest Indiana during his 41 years of dedicated service.

Dr. Jones earned his bachelor's degree in education at Youngstown State University, and then went on to earn his master's degree and Doctorate in education from Indiana University, Bloomington. He began his career in education in 1962 as the Administrative Assistant to the Superintendent of Schools in the Geneva Area School System in Ohio. He has been involved as a principal in the Hammond School System from 1976 through 1986. He was the first person to ever be awarded the Outstanding Principal award for his notable achievements. He has served as the Assistant Superintendent for Hammond Schools since 1986. His history of service to the education of our youth is apparent in all facets of his prestigious career.

Of the many outstanding accomplishments made by Dr. Jones, one of his proudest contributions has been the amazing vision of a robotics program that brought about the design of Team Hammond. Team Hammond has competed competitively at the US FIRST National Competition for the past several years. US FIRST is an organization dedicated to motivating America's youth about science, technology, and engineering through hands-on methods. The program involves a unique blend of problem solving and competition that prepares students for real world situations. Through his sincere and honorable service to the students of Hammond, Dr. Jones has been a guiding light to the Northwest Indiana community.

Dr. Jones has not only served his community through his educational accomplishments, but he has also positively contributed in other ways by being a dedicated member of various community service organizations such as the Woodmar Kiwanis Club, the Hammond Board of Health, the Public Improvements Task Force, and Lake Area United Way to name just a few. He is also a ten-year member of the PTA Executive Committee and has received the PTA National Life Membership Award, which was presented to him by the Hammond Council of PTA's. He has received

many awards that exemplify his dedication and leadership to the Hammond community. He is a member of the Indiana Congress of Parents and Teachers, as well as a recipient of the Outstanding Volunteer Service Award.

Mr. Speaker, Dr. Jones has contributed graciously to not only the youth of Hammond, but also to the entire Northwest Indiana community. His dedication and devotion to the youth of our nation is a goal we should all strive to achieve. I respectfully ask that you and my other distinguished colleagues join me in congratulating Dr. Jones on his retirement. His valiant effort to educate the youth of Northwest Indiana is most commendable, and will be truly remembered.

IN MEMORY OF MICHAEL J. HANDY

HON. VITO FOSSELLA

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, June 5, 2003

Mr. FOSSELLA. Mr. Speaker, earlier this week New York City suffered a blow with the untimely death of Mike Handy. He leaves behind his wife, Edna Wells-Handy, and four daughters. He was 55.

Mike served as Director of Veterans Affairs for New York City, a position he held under Mayors Ed Koch, David Dinkins, Rudy Giuliani and Mike Bloomberg. Professionally he had earned a great deal of respect, but it was his personal dealings with veterans, colleagues and friends that had earned him so much love. He will be very much missed.

A veteran of Vietnam, he served as a "Quick Reaction Team" leader (with a rank of E-5) and was a .50 Caliber Machine Gun Instructor at Phu Cat.

He was active in veterans affairs for nearly 30 years, acquiring more than 50 honors and awards from city, State and Federal levels. He was a member of the American Legion, the Catholic War Veterans, the Navy League, an honorary member of the New York Society of Military & Naval Officers, and a member of the Veteran Corps of Artillery.

Mike led New York City's fight to save the Times Square Recruiting Station and then chaired a City/Army Corps of Engineers Task Force to facilitate its renovation.

In 1991, he was appointed to the Operation Welcome Home Commission, which organized what was at the time the largest Ticker Tape Parade in the city's history. In 1995, he was the Mayor's representative for the "Nation's Parade" NYC tribute to the 50th anniversary of World War II. He was the Mayor's representative for seven of thirteen "Fleet Week" celebrations in New York City.

Without fanfare, Mike helped thousands of veterans. He did this not for credit but to help his comrades-in-arms who were in need. His is a loss not only for New York, but for the Nation as well. He will be missed.

ALL AMERICAN CITY AWARD

HON. DAVE WELDON

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, June 5, 2003

Mr. WELDON of Florida. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to congratulate the residents of Palm Bay, Florida. Since 1949 the National Civic League has recognized great American cities from across the Nation. Palm Bay is among the 30 finalists that will compete for the title of "All American City."

An All American City is a city that has addressed community issues through the strong collaborative efforts of its citizens. It is no surprise to me that Palm Bay, my hometown for many years, has been selected as a finalist for this honor.

During the 1980s, Palm Bay's population more than tripled from just 18,560 to 62,540. Then in the early '90s the General Development Corporation declared bankruptcy. Although this could have had a stagnating effect on city development, Palm Bay's grassroots rose to the occasion. Deteriorating infrastructure and poorly groomed public areas have been replaced by better roads, new parks and recreation areas, a community pool, the renewal of the U.S. 1 corridor and the continued efforts of "Keep Brevard Beautiful" and the Marine Resources Council.

The All American City competition specifically seeks cities in which key civic projects are community and citizen driven. Palm Bay certainly has an abundance of community driven projects and organizations. These include the Volunteer Citizen Observer Program started in 1995 and the more than 100 Palm Bay Citizens who dedicate their time who assist the Palm Bay police force as volunteers.

Next week nearly 100 residents of Florida's 15th district will travel here to Washington, DC to compete for the 54th Annual "All American City" Award. City employees, elected officials, activists, pastors, school children and other Palm Bay citizens will have an opportunity to share just a small piece of Palm Bay with the National Civic League. I commend the city and its citizens for all of the hard work that has made Palm Bay the wonderful place that it is today. I wish these delegates the best as they represent all of the great Floridians living in Palm Bay.